IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A system to structure and manage a configuration of an industrial product, taking into account selected options, comprising:

means for describing a set of technical objects, each technical object either representing a product function or describing an implementation method for the product function, the set of technical objects representing manufacturing options of the industrial product, said means for describing comprising a mass management module;

means for storing and updating a definition of each technical object and of its inter-relations with other of the technical objects in the product configuration, said definition comprising an expression of rules and constraints; and

means for data input and means for interactively and dynamically using said means for storing and updating during said configuration of the product.

Claim 2 (Original): A system according to claim 1, wherein each technical object represents either a function of an aircraft or describes an implementation method of the aircraft function to create an aircraft configuration.

Claim 3 (Currently amended): A system according to claim 1, wherein the means for processing describing comprises:

a knowledge management module;

a contract management module; and

an administration module; and

a mass management module.

Claim 4 (Original): A system according to claim 3,

wherein the knowledge management module is configured to manage technical objects each representing an aircraft function,

wherein the contract management module is configured to manage fleet configurations of aircraft;

wherein the administration module is configured to manage user profiles, and

wherein the mass management module is configured to manage mass of a customized configuration from data supplied from the contract management module.

Claim 5 (Original): A system according to claim 1, wherein the industrial product is considered as a set of functions in a functional approach.

Claim 6 (Currently amended): A system according to claim 3, wherein the contract management module works in a ~~connected or~~ disconnected mode.

Claim 7 (Currently amended): A system according to claim 1, wherein a technical object oriented configuration is used in which the product functions and corresponding implementation methods are selected directly in a list sorted by ~~at least one of~~ ATA chapter, ~~job category, or sales policy~~, the selection being made either individually or globally using a global procedure that joins a possible application and a weight to a set of options in a same functional domain.

Claim 8 (Previously presented): A system according to claim 1, wherein a functional oriented configuration is used that supplies a functional approach to directly select technical objects, specifying required properties of a functional characteristic.

Claim 9 (Previously presented): A system according to claim 3, wherein the means for describing allows a contract manager to start a configuration checking process at any time.

Claim 10 (Original): A system according to claim 1, wherein the industrial product is an aircraft.

Claim 11 (Currently amended): A system to structure and manage a configuration of an industrial product, taking into account selected options, comprising:

a processor configured to describe a set of technical objects, each technical object either representing a product function or describing an implementation method for the product function, the set of technical objects representing manufacturing options of the industrial product, said processor comprising a mass management module;

a database to store and update a definition of each technical object and of its inter-relations with other of the technical objects in the product configuration, said definition comprising an expression of rules and constraints; and

a data input and display for interactively and dynamically using said database during said configuration of the product.

Claim 12 (Original): A system according to claim 11, wherein each technical object represents either a function of an aircraft or describes an implementation method of the aircraft function to create an aircraft configuration.

Claim 13 (Currently amended): A system according to claim 11, wherein the processor comprises:

a knowledge management module;

a contract management module; and

an administration module; ~~and~~

~~a mass management module;~~

all working on the database.

Claim 14 (Original): A system according to claim 13,

wherein the knowledge management module is configured to manage technical objects each representing an aircraft function,

wherein the contract management module is configured to manage fleet configurations of aircraft;

wherein the administration module is configured to manage user profiles, and

wherein the mass management module is configured to manage mass of a customized configuration from data supplied from the contract management module.

Claim 15 (Original): A system according to claim 11, wherein the industrial product is considered as a set of functions in a functional approach.

Claim 16 (Currently amended): A system according to claim 13, wherein the contract management module works in a ~~connected or~~ disconnected mode.

Claim 17 (Currently amended): A system according to claim 11, wherein a technical object oriented configuration is used in which the product functions and corresponding

implementation methods are selected directly in a list sorted by ~~at least one of~~ ATA chapter, ~~job category, or sales policy~~, the selection being made either individually or globally using a global procedure that joins a possible application and a weight to a set of options in a same functional domain.

Claim 18 (Previously presented): A system according to claim 11, wherein a functional oriented configuration is used that supplies a functional approach to directly select technical objects, specifying required properties of a functional characteristic.

Claim 19 (Previously presented): A system according to claim 13, wherein the processor allows a contract manager to start a configuration checking process at any time.

Claim 20 (Original): A system according to claim 11, wherein the industrial product is an aircraft.

Claim 21 (Previously presented): A system according to claim 11, further comprising a knowledge management module.

Claim 22 (Previously presented): A system according to claim 21, wherein the knowledge management module is configured to manage technical objects each representing an aircraft function.

Claim 23 (Previously presented): A system according to claim 11, further comprising a contract management module.

Claim 24 (Previously presented): A system according to claim 23, wherein the contract management module is configured to manage fleet configurations of aircraft.

Claim 25 (Previously presented): A system according to claim 11, further comprising an administration module.

Claim 26 (Previously presented): A system according to claim 25, wherein the administration module is configured to manage user profiles.

Claim 27 (Canceled)

Claim 28 (Currently amended): A system according to claim 27 11, wherein the mass management module is configured to manage mass of a customized configuration from data supplied from a contract management module.

Claim 29 (Previously presented): A system to structure and manage a fleet of vehicles, comprising:

means for describing a plurality of sets of technical objects, each of said sets representing manufacturing options for a vehicle in said fleet, and each technical object either representing a vehicle function or describing an implementation method for making a vehicle configuration; and

means for updating, for each of said sets, a definition of each technical object and its inter-relations with other technical objects in that set, said definition being stored in a dynamic database and comprising an expression of rules and constraints.

Claim 30 (Previously presented): The system of claim 29, wherein said fleet comprises aircrafts.

Claim 31 (Previously presented): The system of claim 29, wherein said fleet comprises helicopters.

Claim 32 (Previously presented): The system of claim 29, wherein said fleet comprises automobiles.

Claim 33 (Currently amended): The system of claim 30, wherein the functions or implementation methods corresponding to the vehicles are selected individually or globally from a list of ATA chapter, job category, or sales policy.

Claim 34 (Previously presented): The system of claim 29, further comprising:

means for updating said fleet by adding or removing a vehicle; and

means for managing a plurality of fleets and updating the plurality of fleets when a vehicle is transferred from one fleet to another fleet.

Claim 35 (Previously presented): The system of claim 14, wherein the contract management module is further configured to update said fleet configurations by adding or removing an aircraft.

Claim 36 (New): A system according to claim 7, wherein the list is further sorted by job category.

Claim 37 (New): A system according to claim 7, wherein the list is further sorted by sales policy.

Claim 38 (New): A system according to claim 17, wherein the list is further sorted by job category.

Claim 39 (New): A system according to claim 17, wherein the list is further sorted by sales policy.

Claim 40 (New): A system according to claim 33, wherein the list further includes job categories.

Claim 41 (New): A system according to claim 33, wherein the list further includes sales policies.